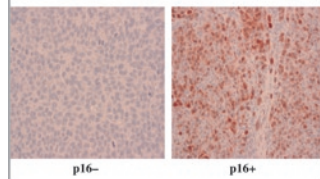


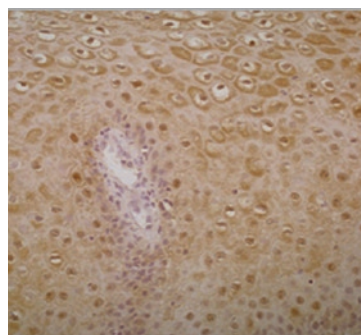
Molecular alterations at chromosome 9p21 in melanocytic naevi and melanoma

Several studies suggest that molecular alterations at chromosome 9p21, mainly involving the CDKN locus and its p16 (CDKN2A) tumour suppressor gene, play a role in melanoma pathogenesis. Based on fluorescence *in situ* hybridization and immunohistochemistry analyses on naevi, primary and metastatic melanomas, this study defined the time of onset for such molecular alterations during the sequential phases of melanocytic tumorigenesis. Allelic deletions at chromosome 9p21 seem to represent an early event, participating in melanoma initiation, whereas the p16 (CDKN2A) gene seems to be inactivated during tumour progression, contributing to a more aggressive behaviour of melanomas. *Br J Dermatol* 2008; 158:243–50.

Sample	No.	CDKN deletions	%
Common naevi	20	0	0
Dysplastic naevi	22	2	9
Primary melanoma	32	6	19
T1–T2	14	1	7
T3–T4	18	5	28
Melanoma metastasis	8	3	37



Human papillomavirus association with p16^{INK4A} expression in penile lichen sclerosis and cancer



Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections are sexually transmitted human carcinogens recognized to cause cervical cancer, that may play a role in the oncogenesis of penile cancer. This study shows a high prevalence of high-risk HPV infections in penile lichen sclerosis and cancer.

HPV infection was associated with p16^{INK4A} expression, consistent with an active role for HPV in interfering with the Rb pathway. High-risk HPV infection could be involved in the tumorigenic process in 50% of penile cancers, and the use of prophylactic HPV vaccines has the potential to prevent these cancers. *Br J Dermatol* 2008; 158:261–5.

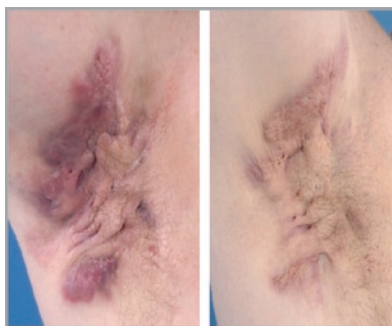
Establishing national admission standards for inpatient management of psoriasis

While hospital admission is still required for some patients with severe or unstable disease, in our current economic climate clinicians have to be responsive to

use of costly resources. With the objective of determining factors predictive of length of stay for inpatients with psoriasis, 183 patients were recruited in four dermatology centres in the U.K. and data collated on Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) and other validated scoring systems. It was found that the admission PASI was significantly associated with length of stay ($r = 0.2$, $P = 0.02$), whereas the other measures of disease severity were not. These data are a first step in defining disease-specific standards for inpatient length of stay. *Br J Dermatol* 2008; 158:266–72.

Disease severity (admission PASI)	National standard length of stay (days)
< 10	19
10–20	21
> 20	24

Long-term efficacy of infliximab in hidradenitis suppurativa



Several studies have reported efficacy of tumour necrosis factor- α inhibitors in hidradenitis suppurativa (HS). Mekkes and Bos investigated for how long the positive effect of a short course of infliximab persists. Ten patients were treated

with three infusions and followed up for > 1 year. All patients improved within 2–6 weeks. After 1 year, a significant reduction of acne score and C-reactive protein, and improvement of quality of life was observed. The mean time until recurrence of lesions was 8.5 months, and three patients showed no recurrence during a 2-year follow up. It was concluded that infliximab is an effective treatment for severe HS, leading to reduction of symptoms for a prolonged period. *Br J Dermatol* 2008; 158:370–4.